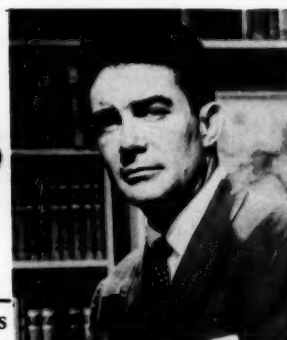


# THE Dan Smoot Report



DAN SMOOT

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Dallas, Texas

## A Strange Story About Wheat

Prior to 1954, American farmers who did not accept government acreage controls on wheat could not participate in government price supports for wheat. If they didn't accept government controls, they wouldn't get government handouts.

Since 1954, government has used its police power to make farmers abide by wheat acreage controls whether they choose to accept the handouts or not.

Since 1954, if you are a farmer, you do not have constitutional protection (guaranteed by the 4th Amendment) against illegal searches and seizures. If you are a farmer, federal farm agents can come onto your property without search warrants or other legal instruments to see whether you are growing wheat. If they find that you are growing wheat, they can tramp around your place and measure your fields to see whether you are growing too much.

If the agents think you are growing too much wheat, they can pronounce you guilty and fine you, without giving you a trial or even a formal hearing, despite the provisions, of the 7th Constitutional Amendment which says,

*The right of trial by jury shall be preserved.*

If you don't pay the fine, the federal agents can seize your bank account or come onto your farm and take your personal property — despite the 5th Constitutional Amendment which says:

*... nor shall any person ... be deprived of ... property without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.*

If you think the federal agents were inaccurate in some of the facts which they allege against you, they hand you a form known as "M.Q.98 Wheat" and tell you to fill it out, under penalties of perjury.

This form asks for full information about your wheat crop: number of acres harvested, number of bushels yielded; how much wheat sold, and to whom; how much wheat stored, or otherwise disposed of.

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If you fill the thing out accurately, and it happens to reveal that you did indeed plant more wheat than allowed in your allotment, your "guilt" is proven by your own admission.

If you fill the form out inaccurately to conceal "over-planting," you are subject to the criminal penalties of laws against perjury.

If you refuse to fill the thing out, the bureaucrats may get a court order which, if defied, could put you in jail, without a trial, for contempt of court.

Thus, "M.Q.98 Wheat" can be a forced confession.

The Fifth Amendment (which says that no person shall be compelled to be a witness against himself and which gives ample protection to communists, spies, union goons, traitors, and miscellaneous criminals) has been put aside, insofar as American wheat farmers are concerned.

And it was put aside in 1954 — the year when all modern republicans and new deal democrats joined hands with each other and with all other "progressives" in America to destroy Joe McCarthy, because Joe was said to be infringing on the constitutional rights of communists by asking them whether they were communists.

Neither the ADL nor the ADA nor Mrs. Roosevelt nor Bishop Oxnam nor Walter Reuther nor any other self-respecting progressive has uttered a syllable about the farmers whose constitutional rights have been violated.

The pertinent point here is that the constitutional rights of American farmers were set aside in 1954, with the approval of "liberals," because it was done "democratically" — democratically in the Soviet fashion, that is.

Compulsory controls were first imposed on American wheat farmers in 1954, because the farmers "in overwhelming numbers" voted for the controls in a Wheat Referendum; and "in overwhelming numbers" they have voted for compulsory controls in every Wheat Referendum since.

In this *Report* dated August 11, 1958, I

discussed the Department of Agriculture's Soviet-style Wheat Referendum.

The Department's arbitrary rules about who is eligible to vote in the referendum disqualifies most of the small, independent farmers. Moreover, the referendum offers farmers a communist choice between "yes" and "no" ("yes" for higher wheat price supports with compulsory acreage controls; "no" for lower price supports with old-style voluntary farmer participation in government acreage controls). The Wheat Referendum does not give farmers a chance to vote for getting the government out of the wheat business altogether. Consequently, many of the farmers whom the bureaucrats rule eligible to vote, do not bother.

In short, of the approximately 20 million people living on farms in the United States, only about 200,000 (10%) actually vote in a Wheat Referendum. Yet all are bound by the decision of that minority. There are almost enough wheat farmers who have part-time jobs helping to enforce the wheat laws to carry the day in a Wheat Referendum. And they do. After each Wheat Referendum, the Department of Agriculture can triumphantly announce that "farmers voted overwhelmingly to support the federal program of acreage allotments and marketing quotas."

What is the official purpose of wheat acreage controls? To reduce the wheat surplus! Ostensibly American farmers were growing too much wheat. The excess was depressing prices so much that farmers could not get a suitable price for what they sold.

The government stepped in with police power and tax money to help: force the farmers to grow less wheat and then guarantee them a good price for what they did grow. In 1955, the first year after compulsory wheat acreage allotments, the government helped by fining 14,000 American farmers more than eight and a half million dollars for growing too much wheat on their own farms.

But there is no wheat surplus.

By 1956, small independent farmers of

America (particularly in the midwest) had begun to search for some way to resist the federal Wheat Police — as they aptly call the Department of Agriculture agents. Many farmers were resisting as individuals, and suffering heavy consequences.

They needed organization. There are many large, well-established farm organizations. There is the highly respected Farm Bureau which is considered conservative; and there is the Farmers' Union which is known to be loaded with socialists and infiltrated by communists. There are many others, but none truly represents the American farmers who want to be free — who want neither government controls nor government subsidies.

Beginning in 1955, small groups of independent farmers started forming their own organizations. Some of them were farmers in one state, like Independent Farmers of Indiana, Independent Farmers of Ohio, Independent Farmers of Montana. Some of them were only county wide, like the Associated Farmers of Huron County, Ohio. The small groups have made efforts to federate into national groups—like the National Council of Farmers for America with headquarters at Defiance, Ohio.

The purpose of all these farmers' efforts is to resist the spread of socialism in the United States — with particular emphasis on stopping and rolling back the federal government's programs of socializing American agriculture.

As the farmers began to hold meetings and make statements for the press, they began to correlate their experiences and make investigations in order to be armed with facts in their fight.

One of the first facts they established was that, although the government's compulsory acreage allotment program has been sold to the American public as a means of reducing harmful surpluses of wheat, there is no real surplus.

While American farmers are being fined

for growing too much wheat, we are importing wheat to relieve the wheat shortage in the United States. Whereas America was once the world's largest wheat exporting nation, governmental meddling has priced our wheat out of the world market and surrendered our foreign wheat markets to other nations. Government meddling has, in fact, priced some American wheat out of the *American* market!

On June 22, 1956, the Associated Farmers of Richland County, Ohio, met at Mansfield and adopted a resolution charging that federal crop controls and subsidies under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, are unconstitutional and socialistic. The resolution said that the federal farm program, whose avowed purpose is to prevent crop surpluses, has actually "created a critical shortage of soft millable wheat in Ohio."

Mr. H. W. Lantz, owner of the Lantz Milling Company in Mansfield, spoke to this meeting of Richland County farmers. Mr. Lantz said that his mill (a small, independent) had already exhausted the supply of wheat from all the counties in its normal trade area in Ohio — that never before, in 40 years of the flour milling business, had he seen such a critical shortage of wheat in Ohio. This was in 1956 — a year when over 200 Ohio farmers were being fined by the federal government for growing "excess" wheat on their own farms!

John Donaldson, Rural Route 2, New London, Ohio, secretary of the Associated Farmers of Huron County, is one of the small, independent Ohio farmers whom the government has penalized for growing wheat.

In the summer of 1957, while action on some of the wheat penalty cases was being taken in Federal District Court at Toledo, Mr. Donaldson heard that a Canadian grain freighter was unloading Canadian wheat at Huron, Ohio.

Mr. Donaldson wrote to his congressman (A. D. Baumhart, Jr.) to find out about this. If Ohio farmers were being prosecuted for growing wheat, because we had too much, why were we importing Canadian wheat?



**C**ongressman Baumhart answered Mr. Donaldson, saying:

*The cargo was loaded at Fort William, Ontario, June 5 (1957) and was unloaded at Huron (Ohio) on June 8. It consisted of 381,755 bushels of oats and 43,778 bushels of wheat.*

*The steamer, Sir Thomas Shaughnessy, is, as you stated, a Canadian vessel owned by Mohawk Navigation Company, Ltd., Montreal.*

*The importation of wheat from Canada is rather unusual, and I assume the consignment in question consisted of grain for feeding purposes. It would appear that this grain would not be competitive with the soft red winter wheat grown in northern Ohio, which is a premium grade.*

*Likewise it is my understanding that there is no surplus of our local wheat which is a preferred type for certain kinds of pastries.*

John Donaldson is an intelligent son of the soil who is in the habit of facing facts. The facts seem to belie some of his congressman's assumptions.

If there were no surplus of "our local wheat," why was John Donaldson and other northern Ohio farmers being fined for growing too much of it?

If it was all right to import this Canadian wheat into Ohio for *feeding purposes*, why were Ohio farmers being penalized for growing their own wheat, for *feeding purposes*?

**A**nd was this importation of foreign wheat rather *unusual* as Congressman Baumhart said?

Mr. Vern Freay, manager of Eastern State Farmers Exchange of Huron — the biggest wheat buyer in this area — said that the importation of Canadian wheat into Ohio, for livestock and poultry feed, is the usual thing: it happens every spring and fall.

**Mr. Freay said:**

*Our buyers buy where they can get the best deal. You can rest assured we wouldn't be buying Canadian wheat if we could get it cheaper in the United States.*

**I**n August, 1957, the Independent Farmers of Montana got out the first edition of their

little monthly mimeographed publication, *Wheat Police News—an Organ of Resistance*. The purpose of the publication is to serve as a clearing house for farmers who want to be free — who do not want government hand-outs; who want to be left alone as free men to make their own living on their own farms in their own way.

David A. Lawyer (himself a farmer), Star Route, Plains, Montana, edits and publishes the *Wheat Police News*, sending it out free of charge. One service he tries to perform is to let other farmers know where they can find real farm publications which stand for freedom.

**Mr. Lawyer says:**

*I am aghast to find that for every patriotic farm paper and magazine dedicated to the American system . . . there are 10 or 20 farm papers . . . that want to make America over into some kind of communist state socialism that will forever destroy our American heritage of freedom and put us under dictators.*

**O**n Page 6 of the May, 1958, issue of *Wheat Police News*, David Lawyer urges his readers to obtain a copy of the April, 1958, issue of *The Farmer's Voice*, published at Route 1, Wooster, Ohio, by Mrs. Clarence Uhl, \$1.00 a year.

**H**ere is what Mr. Lawyer says about the April issue of *Farmer's Voice*:

*A rather long article by Mr. Amil O. Christianson. I know about this old boy . . . spent his whole life studying commodity statistics. He has documents and photostats taken from government records which prove that the U. S. Department of Agriculture falsifies the statistics that it releases to the American farmer.*

*Actually, we have always been an exporting nation for wheat. Now we are an importing nation. . . .*

*Two birds can be killed with the same stone by piling up wheat in storage here in the U. S. This permits existence of those . . . Peoples' courts known as the Agricultural Stabilization Committee, helps put the halter of communism on us, and at the same time ruins our economy.*

*Christianson says that in wheat we haven't provided for the needs of our own people since 1928.*

Mr. Christianson has the statistics which show that our wheat acreage in 1957 was below our wheat acreage in 1866 (when the population was only 1/3 to 1/4th what it now is). Corn average is below the 1870 acreage, and cotton acreage below the 1878 acreage.

He has . . . photostats from the government year-books to prove that we have no surplus at all in any of these crops.

On Page 11 of his May, 1958, issue of *Wheat Police News*, David Lawyer reprints some translated excerpts from a Soviet agricultural publication dated May 27, 1957:

*The Soviet Union holds first place among the countries of the world in wheat production. . . . The area of wheat crops has been expanded by 14 million hectares (hectare equals about 2.471 acres) within the past three years.*

Commenting on these quotes, Mr. Lawyer says:

*I don't trust what the Soviets say . . . but if only a little of this is true, we are in mortal economic danger. While Russia produces all she can and takes over the world wheat market, we put the shackles on our farmers and import wheat.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Cotton

For years, American cotton dominated world markets. When government (first under Henry Wallace's communist-run Department of Agriculture in the early days of the New Deal) started restricting cotton acreage and supporting cotton prices to keep them abnormally high, foreign cotton growers (in Brazil, India, Egypt, Mexico, Russia) started increasing their acreage.

Every year, "surplus" American cotton piles up in government warehouses, at taxpayers' expense — while the world buys cheaper cotton elsewhere. Actually, there is no surplus of cotton at all. The people of the world need more cotton than is being grown; but they can't buy ours, because government keeps the price too high.

What to do with the mountains of government-owned American cotton has become a problem without a solution. If we should try

to sell it on the world market for whatever it will bring, foreign nations would scream that we were ruining the world cotton market. If we tried to let American cotton textile manufacturers buy the government-owned cotton at whatever prices their competitive bidding would set, the same howl would go up from our own cotton producers.

Looking for a solution that can't be found, our government has hit upon the Agricultural Surplus Disposal program. At our expense, we ship abroad surpluses which have been raised and stored at taxpayers' expense. We "sell" these surpluses to foreign governments for local currency. Then, we lend or give that currency back to the foreign governments, or we spend it in their nations for commodities which they need to sell. The foreign commodities thus bought are hauled, at American taxpayers' expense, to some other foreign nation where they are given away, as a part of America's foreign aid program.

One result, insofar as cotton is concerned, is to inflict serious damage, not only on America's cotton producing industry, but also on America's cotton manufacturing industry. Japanese cotton textile mills, for example, can (and do) obtain American cotton, delivered in Japan, at a price six cents or seven cents a pound below what American mills have to pay for the same cotton.

The Japs — using American cotton thus given to them partially at American taxpayer's expense, using modern machinery paid for by American taxpayers under America's foreign aid program, and employing labor that is about one-tenth as expensive as American labor — produce cotton goods for sale in the world market at prices below American prices.

When American textile manufacturers ask for tariffs that will protect their home markets against the importation of cheap foreign goods, they are beaten over the head for being "reactionary, economic isolationists"; they are reminded that our foreign friends must find markets for their goods; that if they can't

trade with us, they will all turn to the communist bloc for trade!

Meanwhile, through our foreign aid programs, our government spends our money to make matters even worse.

**Consider this item from the September 16, 1955, issue of this Report:**

*The United States government has made a loan of \$10,000,000 to provide Mexico with irrigation facilities which will help convert 150,000 acres of Mexican desert into cotton producing land.*

*Public announcement of this loan was made on August 23, 1955. On the same day, the Department of Agriculture announced that the multi-million-bale cotton surplus in the United States threatens to reach an all-time high. . . .*

*Political intervention in the market place is an evil that feeds upon itself. Once it starts, no one has the courage to stop it. Political interventionists try to correct their errors, not by avoiding them in the future, but by making more of the same kind.*

*If we can pour enough American tax money into Mexico to make Mexico a cotton exporting nation, then we can raise American tariffs to protect American growers against the influx of Mexican cotton. That will anger the Mexicans and hurt their economy. Then we can make more loans and gifts to the Mexicans in order to appease them and compensate for their loss of American markets.*

*We have been on this treadmill for almost a generation; and it seems endless. But some day it will end: either in political, moral, and economic bankruptcy for the United States; or in a return to the principles of freedom.*

\* \* \* \* \*

## Only One Solution

In the past 21 years, the federal government has spent approximately 21 billion dollars to help farmers. The net results have been fantastically harmful to American agriculture.

Congress knows this. Every year, Congress tries to patch and improve the laws which govern American farming. Yet, wrestling with the primary problem of whose political party will get what credit for helping which farmers, Congress either makes matters worse, or does nothing.

It couldn't do much better, however, if it tried to revise our farm laws from the sole consideration of what is good for the country, instead of what is good for the party.

The only thing to do with our federal farm laws is to repeal them. The worst features of our agricultural problem were caused by governmental meddling, under the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended. The way to solve the problem is to repeal the law and stop the meddling.

\* \* \* \* \*

## An Undaunted Spirit

*Last week, I mentioned the battle of Bunker Hill; but, I wonder — to a generation of young Americans trained in "progressive" schools which stress Life Adjustment instead of such thrilling and rewarding disciplines as the study of American history — does the mention of Bunker Hill mean much?*

*Here — from an old dog-eared American History book that was once used in the schools and colleges of America — is a brief passage about the Battle of Bunker Hill, June 17, 1775:*

The American army, though larger than that of the enemy, was poorly equipped and disciplined. Their officers however, were men who had seen service. On the 16th of June, it was ascertained that General Gage (commander of the British forces occupying Boston) intended to seize and fortify Bunker Hill.

At nine o'clock at night, Colonel Prescott was dispatched from Cambridge with a thousand men to anticipate the movement. Mistaking Breed's Hill for Bunker's in the darkness, they commenced intrenching themselves on the former eminence, which was nearer to Boston and more exposed to the fire of British ships. The name of Bunker Hill, however, is universally given to the engagement that followed.

The men worked with utmost diligence, and so noiselessly that they were not discovered till dawn, either by the ships, or the British sentinels on Copp's Hill—whose "All's well" they distinctly heard at intervals through the night.



The surprise of the British may be imagined, when, at daybreak on the 17th, they beheld a strong intrenchment, six feet high, commanding their camp.

Gage called a council of war, and it was agreed that the Americans must be driven from their position. Three thousand British veterans were detached for this duty.

The Americans ceased working as they saw their enemies land at Morton's Point, and they hoisted the flag of New England. They were but 1500 in number, deficient in ammunition, exhausted by labor, and suffering from hunger and thirst; yet they were sustained by an undaunted spirit.

Generals Putnam and Warren had now joined their ranks. General Warren, though only 35 years of age, was distinguished no less as a physician than as president of the Provincial Congress of Massachusetts. He had no military experience, and was urged not to expose himself in battle; but the sound of the cannon wooed him to the field. On his arrival, Colonel Prescott offered him the command, as his superior officer; but Warren replied that he had come to learn. Borrowing a musket, General Warren served bravely as a private.

At three o'clock, the British ships and batteries poured in a terrible fire on the redoubt. The first American that fell was horribly mutilated; and his comrades, unaccustomed to such sights, crowded around.

Fearful of the effect, Colonel Prescott ordered that he should be instantly buried.

"He is the first man that has been killed," said Prescott, "and he is the last that will be buried today. To your posts, my gallant fellows, and let every man do his duty."

And every man did his duty.

The British troops moved slowly in perfect order up the hill. The Americans awaited their approach in silence. They had been ordered to reserve their fire till they saw the whites of the enemies' eyes. When the British had reached the prescribed point, Prescott waved his sword above his head and shouted FIRE!

A deadly discharge was poured upon the advancing columns. The ranks were broken, and the survivors hastily retired.

They were rallied for a second charge under cover of a smoke produced by the burning of several hundred wooden houses in Charlestown, which the British had wantonly set on fire.

## WHO IS DAN SMOOT?

Dan Smoot was born in Missouri. Reared in Texas, he attended SMU in Dallas, taking BA and MA degrees from that university in 1938 and 1940.

In 1941, he joined the faculty at Harvard as a Teaching Fellow in English, doing graduate work for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the field of American Civilization.

In 1942, he took leave of absence from Harvard in order to join the FBI. At the close of the war, he stayed in the FBI, rather than return to Harvard.

He served as an FBI Agent in all parts of the nation, handling all kinds of assignments. But for three and a half years, he worked exclusively on communist investigations in the industrial midwest. For two years following that, he was on FBI headquarters staff in Washington, as an Administrative Assistant to J. Edgar Hoover.

After nine and a half years in the FBI, Smoot resigned to help start the Facts Forum movement in Dallas. As the radio and television commentator for Facts Forum, Smoot, for almost four years spoke to a national audience giving both sides of great controversial issues.

In July, 1955, he resigned and started his own independent program, in order to give only one side — the side that uses fundamental American principles as a yardstick for measuring all important issues. Smoot now has no support from, or connections with, any other person or organization. His program is financed entirely from sales of his weekly publication, *The Dan Smoot Report*.

If you believe that Dan Smoot is providing effective tools for those who want to think and talk and write on the side of freedom, you can help immensely by subscribing, and encouraging others to subscribe, to *The Dan Smoot Report*.

Again the Americans lay perfectly quiet, till the enemy were within ten rods. Again they swept down officers and men, and again the British veterans retreated.

The British troops a third time commenced the ascent. The patriots, as before, poured in a galling fire. Unfortunately, however, their ammunition gave out. The British rushed up to the parapet; and, as they mounted it, they were received with stones and clubbed muskets.

Resistance being hopeless, Prescott ordered a retreat. He himself and Warren were the last to leave the redoubt.

General Warren, having done good service, was about joining his companions, when he received a musket-ball in the head and was instantly killed. In him, America lost one of her truest friends. The British general, on hearing of his fall, said it was worth that of 500 ordinary rebels.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Fear

Even the valiant know fear. I have respect for that normal human emotion; and I am intrigued by the effect it has on some people.

Take the prosperous American businessmen who are afraid to support any resistance movement against the growing power of gov-

ernment! All around them they see other men, with practically no "resources," who fight undaunted against the sickness of our times; but they are afraid to fight. They fear harassment by the Internal Revenue Service; they fear giving offense to powerful politicians and bureaucrats; they fear that controversy will hurt their business; they fear the nameless consequences of 'rocking the boat.'

Paralyzed with fear of instant reprisals by something which is destroying their whole way of life today, they are nonetheless fearless in contemplating what will happen to them tomorrow.

If they don't fight today, what will happen to them tomorrow when the growing power of government becomes absolute? If the power of government is already great enough to frighten them into silent, fawning robots, how can they so courageously contemplate tomorrow when the power — which their present cowardice nourishes — will be great enough to make them and their children total slaves?

Was it Dante who said that there is a special place in hell, reserved for those who remain neutral in times of moral crisis?

But, perhaps, no one reads that kind of stuff any more.

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If you do not keep a permanent file of *The Dan Smoot Report*, please mail this copy to a friend who is interested in sound government.

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DAN SMOOT,  
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